

Benefits

Your participation will improve VA's understanding of the biological processes related to GWI, which may help lay the groundwork for future interventions and treatments. Your information will also help create a repository, which may allow the larger scientific community to generate new knowledge and inform future treatment targets. Lastly, you will receive a summary of study results that may impact your future care. This can also include a consultation with you, your healthcare provider, and a VA study provider.

Compensation

You will be compensated for VA study procedures which are completed (up to \$375). Any travel and lodging expenses will be reimbursed to you.

There will be additional compensation for the NIH study for participants who reach that stage.



For More Information

Study Co-Chairs

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Study Contact Information

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Note: Participation is voluntary. Participation will not affect your rights to VA care and benefits

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

WE WANT YOU!

To participate in a new
Gulf War Veteran Research
Opportunity

called
Project IN-DEPTH



VA-NIH
Investigative Deep
Phenotyping of Gulf
War Veteran Health

PROJECT IN-DEPTH

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has partnered with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in a first-of-its-kind collaboration to better understand Gulf War Illness (GWI). Project IN-DEPTH will provide Veterans with detailed clinical knowledge and deep phenotyping of each participants' health. Deep phenotyping refers to the traits of a person, or how an illness presents itself in ways that can be measured or observed. The aim is to create new biomarkers for more accurate diagnosis, explain the biological mechanisms that drive chronic symptoms, and lay the groundwork for better treatments.

What is Gulf War Illness?

GWI is a complex, poorly understood illness that has impacted about a third of Veterans deployed in ODS/S in 1990 and 1991, and can have severe impacts on quality of life. It affects multiple systems in the body, and can include chronic and progressive symptoms such as fatigue, headache, memory and cognitive difficulties, joint and muscle pain, poor sleep, and problems with gastrointestinal, respiratory and cardiovascular function. Treatment to date has focused mainly on alleviating symptoms, and the underlying reasons of why Veterans have GWI remain poorly understood.

Objective

The VA study will recruit, screen, and evaluate Gulf War Veterans with the goal of understanding why some have developed Gulf War Illness (GWI) and other have not. The purpose of the VA study is to identify deployed GW Veterans who have and have not developed GWI. We are looking for eligible Veterans who are interested in participating in a NIH Study in Bethesda, Maryland. The NIH study will conduct a deep phenotyping of GWI, and compare findings with those from patients with other illnesses that involve fatigue, in order to learn about similarities and differences.

Participation

VA Study will include

- Phone interview and web surveys
- Review of your medical records by the study team
- An appointment at your home to complete blood draw and vitals via mobile unit
- Clinical interviews, such as History & Physical
- Psychological examinations
- Qualitative interview
- Participation in a data and specimen repository

Note: VA study procedures can be done remotely at your home. An in-person track at a VA site in Washington D.C., Miami FL, or Palo Alto CA may be open in the future.

NIH Study

For most participants, the NIH study will take place over the course of a single inpatient admission typically lasting 14 days. During this time, the NIH will perform a variety of testing. Examples include: medical exams, clinical evaluations of how you think and feel, advanced imaging, laboratory testing, and an exercise test. NIH scientists will closely track what is happening in the body through brain scans and the collection of blood, urine and saliva samples.

